

That's what I believe in. That's what we all should believe in, and I just praise the Lord Jesus Christ who came into my life that November day. And He saved my life for all of eternity, and I'm living an eternal life today, and He's given me a stability.

Our country is founded on those principles. Our Constitution's written on those principles that God gives us in His Word.

So I rise today to support Him first and foremost and support the Bible as the basis of our Nation. I look forward to serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PERU FTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Peru free trade agreement. I can't figure out why Congress is taking up this agreement now, especially when the Bush administration has had such a bad track record of enforcing any of our trade agreements.

President Bush has given little or nothing to our workers these last few years other than a pink slip. So why give them another vehicle for job losses?

Last week, the House passed a trade adjustment assistance overhaul bill. This legislation would provide our workers much-needed relief, but we wouldn't need more trade adjustment assistance legislation if we had better trade agreements.

Even before the TAA bill passed the House, we heard that the President would veto it. So what would the House Democrats be doing by taking up the Peru free trade agreement without a TAA bill?

And just last week we heard from the House leadership that there will be no China currency manipulation bill this year either. So let's review what we are getting out of our new trade deal: no additional relief for our workers, no China currency manipulation bill, no value added tax bill, no enforcement of existing trade policy.

This is what we do get. We get another NAFTA-style trade deal. What do workers get? The same old direction on trade.

The biggest supporter of the agreement is big multinational corporations. As a matter of fact, the President will be meeting with them tomorrow to get them to lobby for the passage of the Peru trade deal. It's the large multinational companies who seek to profit off the backs of working men and women in our country.

The Bush administration claims that the agreement will improve labor standards in Peru, and in the very next breath, Tom Donohue, who's president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, states that he is "encouraged by assurances that the labor provisions cannot be read to require compliance with ILO Conventions."

These multinational companies like Peru, they love these free trade agreements because it's not enforceable.

While some may think that there has been progress made on the environment and labor provisions by the Peru FTA, all you need to do is look at who's supporting these trade deals. Not one union supports this trade deal, not one union, environmental, consumer, small business, faith, family farm group supports the modified Bush Peru NAFTA-style trade deal.

Even the leaders of major Peruvian labor organizations oppose this agreement. They urge Congress to vote "no," claiming that it will weaken labor standards, encourage illegal immigration to the United States, and increase rates of drug trafficking as well.

By voting "no" to the Peru FTA, you're asking for a new direction on trade. I ask my colleagues to join me and vote "no" on the Peru free trade deal. It's a bad deal for America. It's a bad deal for Peru. It's the same old, same old NAFTA-style trade deal that we're dealing with.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the many people who have come to the floor tonight to talk about National Bible Week.

My earliest memories are of Mom reading the Bible to us six children. We grew up basically in the oil field, in the very low income strata of the oil field. My dad was a roustabout. My parents gave us those values of faith, family and freedom from the earliest age. And when my wife observes the truism that she read recently of the hand that rocks the cradle steadies the Nation, it applies in my particular life.

I've been a Christian from an early age, and so it was about 10 years ago that my wife observed that, you know, we profess to be Christians but we don't necessarily read the Bible every day, we don't have a discipline, and we began at that point to do that.

Now, my daughter says it best, that what we find written in the words in the Bible give context. They give us a way to perceive. It's a perception that we gain.

I would like to share a couple of things that stay with me constantly. One is in Micah, Micah, the sixth chapter, where the question comes up rhetorically, when we have done wrong, what should we do? And the writer asks: With what shall I come before the

Lord and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with 10,000 rivers of oil? Shall I offer my first born for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? And then we get the answer from the writer.

He has showed you a man that is good and what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

This kind of a verse calms me down when things are urgent, when things are chaotic, and when I'm out of step.

Another significant verse is in Psalms 11. When, again, we have fears, the Psalms 11 addresses that. It's actually written by David, and he asks: How can you say to me flee like a bird to your mountain, for, look, the wicked bend their bows. They set their arrows against the strings to shoot from the shadows at the upright and heart.

And the significant question then comes: When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?

The answer is given almost immediately: The Lord is in his holy temple, for the Lord is righteous, he loves justice. Upright men will see his face.

Again, we are not so consumed by the fears of the moment, by the perils of the circumstance.

We have a bipartisan group; it's called the Congressional Prayer Caucus. I was one of the people who helped found that group. We meet every Monday night in the context that we meet under to pray for the Nation comes from Second Chronicles 7:14: If my people who are called by My name will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will I forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Now, these words are spoken to those people who believe. It's not necessarily an instruction to those who don't share the belief, but simply a truism.

Today one of the deepest pleasures that I get is doing the same thing Mom did with me. I see my two grandchildren, Preston and Olivia, and were able to read the Bible with them in the mornings. They both are intent, listening, one 6, one 3. My daughter trains them daily. Again, I am remembering, the hand that rocks the cradle steadies the Nation.

I give thanks for those people who are dedicated to a belief system. I appreciate my belief system. I know there are others that other people rely on. But, for me, this Christian belief, this belief in Jesus Christ has been what has saved me.

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WAR IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.